



NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE**

**NEVADA STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
OWNER AGREEMENT FORM**

NAME OF PROPERTY: Lander County Courthouse

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 315 S. Humboldt St. Battle Mountain, NV. 89820

OWNER OF RECORD: Lander County

ADDRESS: 50 State Route 305 Battle Mountain, NV. 89820

This is to certify that I have been notified by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office regarding the proposed nomination of the above-referenced property to the State Register of Historic Places, and that I have read and understand the enclosed attachment regarding the effects of listing. I understand that listing this property in the State Register of Historic Places pursuant to 383.085 of the Nevada Revised Statutes will not change my private property rights, nor will it impose any new covenants or regulations.

As the legal owner of this property, I  **agree**, / / **disagree** with the listing of said property in the State Register of Historic Places.

Owner (printed name): KEITH WESTENGARD - County Manager for Lander County

Owner's Signature

12-3-18  
Date

*Please return this form to the State Historic Preservation Office*

State Historic Preservation Office  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5004  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
901 S. STEWART STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701



NEVADA  
STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE

**NEVADA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Nomination Form**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**Historic name:** Battle Mountain Grammar School  
**Other names:** Lander County Court House

Public Copy  
For BMH Meeting  
Reference Only

**2. LOCATION**

**Street Address:** 315 Humboldt Street  
**City or Town:** Battle Mountain **County:** Lander **Zip:** 89820  
**Original Location?**  Yes  No. **If no, date moved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. OWNERSHIP & CLASSIFICATION**

**Ownership of Property:** Public-local  
**Owner Name:** Lander County  
**Owner Address:** 50 State Route 305, Battle Mountain, NV 89820

**Number of Resources within Property**

Buildings 4  
Sites \_\_\_\_\_  
Structures \_\_\_\_\_  
Objects \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total:** 4

**FOR OFFICIAL USE:**

11/13/2018 Nomination Received Senate # 14 Assembly # 32

Listing Criteria  A  B  C  D  E

**A. BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY**

As the chair of the Nevada Museums and History Board, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for listing in the Nevada Register of Historic Places.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Chair Date

**B. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

As the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for listing in the Nevada Register of Historic Places.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Property Name: Battle Mountain Grammar School  
State Register Number: 190159

## 5. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Use/Function: Education: School  
Intermediate Use/Function: Government: Courthouse  
Current Use/Function: Vacant/Not In Use

## 6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (select one or more from instructions)

- Criterion A** - Property is associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to Nevada history.
- Criterion B** - Property is associated with the lives of persons significant to Nevada's past.
- Criterion C** - Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction significant to Nevada, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D** - Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to Nevada's prehistory or history.
- Criterion E** - Property reflects cultural traditions important to historic or pre-historic peoples of Nevada. (Nevada State Register only).

### Criteria Considerations (check only those that apply)

- Criteria Consideration 1** – The property is religious in nature, but is primarily significant for its architecture, or is the only remaining or best remaining resource from an historic community.
- Criteria Consideration 2** – The property has been reconstructed, but is an accurately executed reconstruction and is located in an environment that replicates its historic setting.
- Criteria Consideration 3** – The property achieved significance within the past fifty years but is rare or exceptional.

State Register Number:  
Property Name:

## 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

<b>Area(s) of Significance</b>	<u>Education</u>
<b>Period of Significance</b>	<u>1915-1962</u>
<b>Cultural Affiliation(s)</b>	<u>N/A</u>
<b>Significant Person(s)</b>	<u>N/A</u>
<b>Architect/Builder(s)</b>	<u>Frederic J. DeLongchamps</u>

### **Narrative Statement of Significance:**

The Battle Mountain Grammar School is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education for its contribution as an educational institution in northern Lander County for from its construction in 1915. In the early quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Battle Mountain was a prosperous community and built a school that reflected optimism and affluence. Designed by Frederic J. DeLongchamps, the two-story brick building was the first modern school in Battle Mountain and functioned as a grammar/high school from 1916 to 1923 and solely as a grammar school for first through eighth graders into the 1960s. It not only served Euro-American students in Battle Mountain, but after changes in Bureau of Indian Affairs policies in the late-1920s, served the Battle Mountain Band of the Western Shoshone, or *Newe* as well. In February 1962, a devastating flood damaged all the schools in Battle Mountain and closed the grammar school, becoming unutilized as a county property between 1962 and 1967. The school was repurposed as the Lander County Courthouse in 1979 when the county seat was moved to Battle Mountain from Austin, over 100 miles south of town. Numerous exterior and interior changes were made to upgrade the Battle Mountain Grammar School into a courthouse; however, much of the school's original design elements are present.

### Early Settlement in the Battle Mountain area

The town of Battle Mountain that eventually constructed the school emerged as a result of both mining and railroad development, a pattern common to most of northern Nevada's communities. The construction of the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) was a significant event that crossed Northern Nevada from 1868 to 1880, spurring townships as railroad station hubs in providing easy access to mining and ranching interests.<sup>1</sup> Along the CPRR rail line in Lander County, the Argenta and Battle Mountain stations were located to conveniently ship ore out of the nearby mining camps and to ship provisions back to supply mining teams.

In 1866, silver was discovered in Argenta and a small camp developed by 1868, mostly comprised of sod, tule rush, canvas, and wooden structures for a population of about 200-500 people.<sup>2</sup> The expectation was that Argenta would develop into a major shipping point to mining districts, such as Austin founded in 1862. However, the town of Battle Mountain, approximately 20 miles south

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<sup>1</sup> Shawn R. Hall. *Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1994:46.

<sup>2</sup> Hall, *Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties*, 49; Dana R. Bennett. *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*. Published by the Lander County Historical Society, 2014:27.

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of Argenta, became a more desired shipping point. Battle Mountain was established in 1867, situated about a mile south of the Humboldt River and closer to the Battle Mountain Mining District, founded a year earlier.<sup>3</sup> The CPRR rarely changed their station locations after they were established but in early 1869, they dismantled the Argenta depot and all the town's buildings, which included the prominent Capital Hotel, and transported them on the railroad to Battle Mountain in December 1870.<sup>4</sup> By 1873, the railroad signal was all that was left of Argenta. As the sole railroad hub in the area, Battle Mountain became successful as a bustling community of businesses, and spurred the creation of a Northwestern Stage Company line that ran stages to and from Austin, Geneva, and the Battle Mountain Mining District.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to the European settlement and railroad, several Western Shoshone, or *Newe*, bands lived in the surrounding area and were ancestors of people known as "*Tonomudza*."<sup>6</sup> After the 1880s, the *Newe* people lived on the outskirts of Battle Mountain, working on local ranches. In 1917, the Battle Mountain Band Colony received federal recognition and a 677-acre reservation west of Battle Mountain. The colony was reorganized under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934 as the Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Indian Colonies and was established as a member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians. Battle Mountain was quick to adopt new policies under the IRA. As is explored in greater detail below, within two years of the IRA, Battle Mountain had closed their Indian school and integrated their education system.

#### Battle Mountain's Early Education

Battle Mountain's first child, Martha Elizabeth Huntsman, was born on February 9, 1870. However, it would take over a year before a school building was presented as a necessary resource for the community.<sup>7</sup> In August 1870, the town was home to seven families with children and yet had no school. The Argenta Township circulated a petition to the Lander County Commission in creating the Argenta School District on August 9, 1871, which included the town of Battle Mountain.<sup>8</sup> A year later, the county commission accepted the proposal to raise \$3,000 to construct a wooden one-room school, which was built in Battle Mountain in 1873 due to the shift of railroad facilities away from Argenta.<sup>9</sup>

The new one-room school was "placed far out in the sagebrush" at the corner of Mountain and Third Streets far from the Front Street saloons. Historian Dana Bennett notes this location was intended to protect the children from "stray bullets when the cowboys, miners, and railroad toughs [would] start to shoot up the town."<sup>10</sup> Student Adah Cope Combs attended the little school from 1878 to 1885 and recalled in 1951 that it was "heated by river willows or wood brought from the surrounding mountains and drinking water was carried from a well a block away."<sup>11</sup> Combs recalled that outhouses were located behind the school. The first teacher of the school was Miss Maggie Hinton and the second teacher was Mr. Warren F. Cook, who lived at 98-1/2 Mill West Street. By 1880, the U.S. Federal Census recorded 55 children "at school" among 522 residents in

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<sup>3</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 28.

<sup>4</sup> Hall, *Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties*, 49.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone. "Battle Mountain Band Colony." Accessed on July 31, 2018 at <https://www.temoaktribe.com/battlemountain.shtml>.

<sup>7</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 48-49.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 49.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*; Dana Bennett, "personal communication with Corri Jimenez," August 24, 2018.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

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162 households.<sup>12</sup> After 1880, Battle Mountain saw mining and agriculture industries flourishing in town, which caused population fluctuations in the community. By 1900, the population was prosperous, and the staff at the little school had grown to include two music teachers and five schoolteachers for a population recorded to be 1,797, which included 394 “Non-Indian residents.”<sup>13</sup> In 1909, the little school had “63 students and two teachers,” which included Eliza Pierce who was not only a graduate (Class of 1900), but taught her first class in the school in 1904 until her retirement in 1951.<sup>14</sup> A class picture from November 3, 1911 records 53 students aside the 1873 school, which included Principal Palmer and Miss Pierce that demonstrates how large the student body had become in the early years (see photo 20).

Through a local bond in the summer of 1915, residents voted to replace the 1873 one-room school with a newer school that would portray the town of Battle Mountain as a “progressive community,” according to the *Reno Evening Gazette*.<sup>15</sup> Within the year, construction of the new Battle Mountain Grammar School, designed by Nevada architect Frederic DeLongchamps, was completed. The 1873 school was then repurposed as the Battle Mountain Indian School using federal monies to support and educate local Native American children living on reservations in an effort to reduce illiteracy within their families. Such education of Native American children had started elsewhere in Nevada in the late nineteenth century. However, in eastern Nevada this practice was not as common. Communities in the area, such as Elko and Winnemucca, followed Battle Mountain’s example in requesting contracts through the Reno Indian Agency to educate the local Native American children.<sup>16</sup>

By 1917, the Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Indian Colonies, part of the Nevada Indian Colony, received federal recognition of their system, through a presidential executive order. The Battle Mountain School District received federal and state funds that year. A Nevada law in 1919 was passed, which required all children regardless of ethnicity to go to school and provide substantial income for the two schools. It was not until this law was passed did parents and tribes were able to negotiate with school administrators that compelled them to send their children to schools.<sup>17</sup> The “separate but equal” systems for Native American and Non-Native American children in Battle Mountain “certainly had a racist tint.”<sup>18</sup> Battle Mountain historian Dana Bennett adds context to this view:

Some white parents did not want Indian children in the same classroom as their children, and the two buildings provided a convenient means to separate them. The buildings shared a playground...Rene Lemaire fondly recalled that his childhood ‘pal and playmate’ was a Western Shoshone named William Joaquin, Jr. Interestingly, the two childhood friends, as adults, went into public service: Lemaire as a State Senator and Joaquin in the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. While there is no question that

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 62; US Federal Census. “Battle Mountain, Lander County, Nevada” 1880. Accessed on May 17, 2018 at [www.Anccestry.com](http://www.Anccestry.com).

<sup>13</sup> US federal Census. “Battle Mountain, Lander County, Nevada” 1900. Accessed on May 17, 2018 at [www.Anccestry.com](http://www.Anccestry.com).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 115, 191.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 115.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 116-117.

<sup>17</sup> Bonnie Thompson. “The Student Body: A History of the Stewart Indian School, 1890-1940.” Ph.D. Dissertation, Arizona State University, 2013:53. Accessed August 24, 2018

[https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/125895/content/Thompson\\_asu\\_0010E\\_13545.pdf](https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/125895/content/Thompson_asu_0010E_13545.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 117.

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prejudicial attitudes existed between whites and Indians, the existence of federal funding was the primary motivator for establishing an Indian School in Battle Mountain.<sup>19</sup>

Very few images exist of the 1873 school but architecturally it was a T-shaped wood shingle building with 15-foot high ceilings and heated with a stove and is best seen in the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (see photo 22). The map depicts a rear addition that was added in the later years to the original one-room school to accommodate plumbing for bathrooms and showers.<sup>20</sup> Early efforts to educate Native American children often removed them from their families, placing them in boarding schools that emphasized assimilation to the dominant culture. There were some day schools that allowed children to remain with their families. In the 1920s, though, there was a shift in how the federal government approached Native American children's education. Federally-based education efforts moved toward the idea that by leaving Native children with their family to attend school during the day, students could assist with the assimilation of their parents. They would return home in the evenings and share what they learned in "mainstream" schools.<sup>21</sup>

In 1934, the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), also known as the "Indian New Deal," was passed and was in keeping with this push away from Native American boarding schools.<sup>22</sup> The Act recognized the role of culture and history as part of a Native child's learning and gave certain aspects of the responsibility of Native American education to each state, although the federal boarding school system remained in active service into the 1980s. The IRA focused on improving the economic conditions in Native American communities by providing support for tribal governments.<sup>23</sup> The Battle Mountain Board of School Trustees oversaw the Battle Mountain Indian School and the community began to feel that Native American children would benefit attending the public school and desegregating their education. The federal agency provided federal funds to the Battle Mountain School Board, and the board considered the integration a "drive in the right direction" and a benefit the "whole community has reaped the reward of more money for special work, thus benefitting all the pupils."<sup>24</sup> Battle Mountain's community provided "little fuss" on integrating the children into the main grammar school in 1936 and closing the older school.<sup>25</sup>

After 1936, the 1873 school as the Battle Mountain Indian School was used as an annex for band practice, indoor physical education, and a community center for residents in the 1940s.<sup>26</sup> By 1950, the school was used as a kindergarten for about twenty students.<sup>27</sup> In the late-1970s, Lou Fuller and his cousin Earling Kaae tore down the old school because the county was fearful it was

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 164.

<sup>21</sup> Michael "Bert" Bedeau and Terri McBride. "School Buildings in Nevada MPS." Multiple Property Documentation (MPS) Form, National Register Nomination (No. 64501001). January 8, 2008. Accessed at [http://shpo.nv.gov/uploads/documents/64501001\\_-\\_Schools\\_in\\_Nevada.pdf](http://shpo.nv.gov/uploads/documents/64501001_-_Schools_in_Nevada.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Bonnie Thompson. "The Student Body: A History of the Stewart Indian School, 1890-1940." Ph.D. Dissertation, Arizona State University, 2013:53. Accessed August 24, 2018 [https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/125895/content/Thompson\\_asu\\_0010E\\_13545.pdf](https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/125895/content/Thompson_asu_0010E_13545.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 165.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 166.

<sup>27</sup> Coxy Roberts. "Personal communication with Corri Jimenez," May 15, 2018.

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going “to be set on fire.”<sup>28</sup> Fuller recalled that the building was about thirty feet wide by forty feet long, and was made out of “old 4x4 rough lumber on a rock foundation.” He remembers that the county commissioners called him personally to take down the school, which he reused to construct a few barns at his uncle’s ranch in the Antelope Valley that have since been torn down. The old brass school bell that was in the tower was salvaged, and now rings in the Battle Mountain High School as athletes enter the football field.

### Creation of the Battle Mountain Grammar School

Upgrading the 1873 one-room school was a significant event in Battle Mountain and was a reflection of the town’s prosperity and optimism, the State’s educational investment, and Frederic DeLongchamps’ prolific career in public architecture. In the early 1900s, Battle Mountain was experiencing a boom as a result of nearby mining and agricultural activity, exporting and importing products to numerous budding communities flourishing nearby, such as Galena and Copper Canyon. Copper was one of the biggest exports of the Battle Mountain Mining District, which provided electrical wiring in a burgeoning utility industry as well as war materiel for the First World War from 1914 to 1918. Nevada newspapers promoted Battle Mountain as the “center of a territory that is very valuable to the state.”<sup>29</sup> With the positive press, Battle Mountain, like many Nevada mining towns, envisioned itself as the next big mining town, building a “place of progress” with modern amenities that included an industrious commercial district.<sup>30</sup>

As the town prospered, its educational needs grew with larger class sizes, leading to the commission of a new school building by renowned regional architect Frederic J. DeLongchamps in September 1915. DeLongchamps had risen to prominence the previous year by designing the Agriculture and Mining Building at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, which earned him a silver award. The design was endorsed by the state as well as the mining industry, and propelled DeLongchamps’ career as one of the state’s most prominent early-twentieth century architects. DeLongchamps filled thousands of commissions throughout his career, including some thirty schools across Nevada.<sup>31</sup>

The Battle Mountain Grammar School included Classical Revival architecture common of public buildings in the period, and state-of-the-art technology for the time. The school’s design was reused as a model for a second school in Sparks.<sup>32</sup> The new school’s first floor had four large classrooms with adjoining wardrobe rooms, a teachers’ room, an interior vacuum cleaner, and a science laboratory with gas outlets (see drawing 1). Under the main first floor, the aboveground basement had a fifth classroom, indoor boys and girls’ bathrooms, a heating/boiler room, and a large assembly room for students (see drawing 2).<sup>33</sup> Some of the subtle details in the new school included maple wood floors on the first floor and marble walls in the bathroom, and no expenses were spared in bringing the school to a high, twentieth century standard. The setting in front of the school was well landscaped with a grassy lawn and numerous trees (see photo 19 and photo 22).

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<sup>28</sup> Lou Fuller. “Personal communication with Corri Jimenez,” May 15, 2018.

<sup>29</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 103.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> Mella Rothwell Harmon. “The Extraordinary Career of Frederic J. DeLongchamps.” *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, Fall 2006:182; University of Nevada Reno Special Collections. “A Guide to the Frederic J. DeLongchamps Architecture Records.” Accessed on July 27, 2018 at <http://dewey.library.unr.edu/xtf/view?docId=ead/NC1215-ead.xml;query=deLongchamps;brand=default>.

<sup>32</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 115.

<sup>33</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. “Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025).” Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.



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The *Superintendent Biennial Report* recorded approximately \$21,000 was spent on improvements in 1915-1916 for the construction of the Grammar School:<sup>34</sup>

The building is designed in the [Doric] order of classical architecture with four doric columns at the front entrance. The basement walls are of 15-inch concrete and the basement, which is almost entirely above ground, is composed of an assembly room, a classroom and the heating equipment. The walls above the basement are of brick 13 inches thick, faced with buff pressed brick. The roof is made of five-ply tar and gravel with cornices of sheet metal. The lavatories, between the basement and the first floor, have tile flooring and marble walls six feet in height.<sup>35</sup>

The report also included that there were 199 children attending public schools in the county.<sup>36</sup> In that year, the school had one principal overseeing a teaching staff of three.<sup>37</sup>

In the early years, the Battle Mountain Grammar School functioned as both a high school and grammar school for the community between 1919 and 1922, until a separate high school was constructed nearby. Once constructed, Principal Robinson oversaw both schools. The High School had four teachers: Anna Millar, Sarah Marshall, and Lela Halsell, and Eliza Pierce.<sup>38</sup> In the grammar school, there were two teachers instructing in the high school section school, Dorothy Hempton, and Ester Mario. Prior to opening the high school in 1922, the highest grade a student in Battle Mountain could achieve was an eighth grade education, and very few went on to receive a high school education in some of northern Nevada's other high schools (Reno and Elko during this period). The first high school class at the Battle Mountain Grammar School in 1919 consisted of two students, Arthur Uren and Helen Mae Christopher.<sup>39</sup>

The 1920 Federal Census showed that Battle Mountain's population had nearly doubled over the previous decade from 878 in 1910 to 1,540, which included "602 Non-Native Americans," demonstrating the increasing need for expanded educational facilities. The census in that year recorded seven schoolteachers in the town's schools.<sup>40</sup> Interestingly, most of the female teachers lived with other teachers, and only Pierce lived at home. In addition to teachers, there was one janitor, William Delgrosso, a 61-year-old man, born in Italy worked on the school premises." As part of the expanded need for services, the School District constructed Lander County High School #2 between 1921 and 1922, the designs for which they also commissioned Frederic DeLongchamps. The *Biennial Report of the Superintendent Public Instruction* (1923) accounts:

This is one of the best buildings in the State and is fully equipped. Besides having a splendid building, the school is paying excellent salaries: Principal \$2700, commercial \$2,000, industrial \$2,400, home arts \$1,800, English \$1,800. They have two Smith-Hughes

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<sup>34</sup> John Edwards Bray. "State of Nevada Biennial Report of the Superintendent Public Instruction, 1915-1916." In *Biennial Reports, 1915-16, 1917-18, 1919-20, 1921-22*. Carson City: State Printing Office, 1923:5, 39.

<sup>35</sup> Bray, "State of Nevada Biennial Report of the Superintendent Public Instruction, 1915-1916," 39.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 42.

<sup>37</sup> John Edwards Bray, "State of Nevada Educational Directory, and Information as to Certification of Teachers, January 1, 1916." In *Biennial Reports, 1915-16, 1917-18, 1919-20, 1921-22*. Carson City: State Printing Office, 1923:12.

<sup>38</sup> Bray, "State of Nevada Educational Report and Information as to Certification of Teachers, December 1, 1919." In *Biennial Reports, 1915-16, 1917-18, 1919-20, 1921-22*. Carson City: State Printing Office, 1923:15.

<sup>39</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 166.

<sup>40</sup> US Federal Census. "Battle Mountain, Lander County, Nevada" 1920. Accessed on May 17, 2018 at [www.Anccestry.com](http://www.Anccestry.com).

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Teachers in the school who are giving work in the special courses. The enrollment is rapidly increasing in the high school. Certainly a splendid start has been made here. The grade school is giving a strong foundation for the boys and girls who will enter the high school. Taken together, this is one of the best small school systems in the State.<sup>41</sup>

In 1923, the county boasted approximately 300 students educated by twenty-two teachers, twelve of whom were teaching in the Battle Mountain schools, with the remainder mostly in Austin.<sup>42</sup> Battle Mountain Deputy Superintendent Mary S. Black reported in 1926 that the two schools shared “an excellent playground, including a fine tennis court.”<sup>43</sup> Black was influential in curricula development in both schools and created a sewing class for the girls and a carpentry workshop for the boys, which were located in the 1873 school that served as an annex. Black became principal of the Battle Mountain Grammar School in 1927, and she served as principal for almost 20 years.

Various classes published yearbooks under specific titles to document the ongoing social history of the grammar school and the activities of students. The eighth grade class published a yearbook known as the *Kiwaa* in 1929, recording their class colors of .<sup>44</sup> The students recorded the general social history of their class, such as the school colors of “Pink and Green” and their motto: “Rowing, not Drifting.” Field trips were common for class groups, including a field trip to San Francisco where a class secured a “drawing room” and went to Golden Gate Park. The 1941 *Hi-lights* published by the eighth grade in that year, recording class colors as “Wine and Gold” and the motto as “The Ropes of Today Ring the Bells of Tomorrow.”<sup>45</sup> Francis Muncey included a sketch of the grammar school in the book, which was accompanied by a brief vignette by student Joyce Collens:

Our school, the Battle Mountain Grammar School, was built in 1916. The school board at the time it was built consisted of Henry Lemaire, George Kaeding, and Henry Starrett. Mr. Mitchell was the principal of the school when it was moved from the old building, later used as the Indian School, to the new building. Virginia Licking, Eliza Pierce, and Cora Fower, who was followed by Ann Miller and who later became principal of the school, were among the first teachers. Mr. Robinson later on was principal of the Grammar School. The high school was also in the grammar school building. There were thirty-three pupils and Miss Dorothy Hempton, now Mrs. Andrew Kinneberg, was principal and also taught English and, other subjects. She coached the first boys’ basket ball team that went to Elko. Miss Haron was the science teacher at this time.<sup>46</sup>

During the 1940s, Coxy Roberts remembered attending fifth grade to eighth grade and graduated from the grammar school in 1947.<sup>47</sup> She reflected that the assembly room in the basement was used as a lunchroom and had a kitchen, although this is not evident in the original as-built drawings (see photo 23). The little kids were schooled in the classrooms across from the auditorium. In addition to her memories inside the school, she recalled a baseball diamond on the southeast corner

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<sup>41</sup> W.J. Hunting. “Biennial Report of the Superintendent Public Instruction, 1921-1922,” In *State of Nevada, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Biennial Reports 1915-16, 1917-18, 1919-20, 1921-22*. Stanford: School of Education Library, Stanford University Libraries, 1923:40.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.

<sup>43</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 164.

<sup>44</sup> Battle Mountain Grammar School. *Kiwaa*, 1929:8. Published by the Battle Mountain Grammar School,

<sup>45</sup> Battle Mountain Grammar School. *Hi-lights*, 1941. Published by the Battle Mountain Grammar School.

<sup>46</sup> Battle Mountain Grammar School, *Hi-lights*, 1941.

<sup>47</sup> Roberts, “Personal communication with Corri Jimenez,” May 15, 2018.

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where there is currently a parking lot, plus monkey bars, swings, and slides in the yard. She recollected that children from Copper Canyon were bussed the eighteen miles to the grammar school.<sup>48</sup>

Like many schools in smaller towns and cities in the western United States, in addition to being an educational institution, the Battle Mountain Grammar School was periodically a community center. The students were known to put on numerous public events, such as a musical program, orchestrated by music teacher Mrs. Alice Lemaire. Some of the events Miss Lemaire set up included a Ukulele Club for first through fifth graders, as well as dances that brought out local musicians. The school also established a Battle Mountain Parent-Teacher Association which sought to help fund smaller developments, including a bake sale held to purchase a new slide for the schoolyard. Programs like these reinforced a sense of pride for the entire community.

In 1951, Lander County School Board planned to build a new elementary school in town, named after the respected schoolmarm, Miss Eliza Pierce. The new school building was constructed at the south end of town, near a federal employee housing project.<sup>49</sup> Pierce herself participated in the dedication on October 22, 1957, which was hosted by the Lions Club and Battle Mountain Parent-Teachers Association.

#### Changing Times as a school becomes a County Courthouse

On February 12-16, 1962, Battle Mountain experienced a devastating flood after three inches of rain fell in four hours, melting snow packs on adjacent mountains. The heavy rain flooded the town, stranding 700 people in schools and businesses. Governor Grant Sawyer visited the town and secured a national disaster declaration from President John F. Kennedy.<sup>50</sup> Because of the emergency, federal funds poured into the town for road projects, sidewalks, and paving. Historian Dana Bennett notes:

A Reno consulting engineer recommended that the Lander County School District stop using the town's oldest elementary school building, and Battle Mountain's first school, which had also served as the Indian School and community center, was demolished. Flood damage was also invoked to condemn and tear down Lander County High School #2.

With all the Battle Mountain schools significantly damaged by the flood, the older schools of the town were mothballed. The population in town had also outgrown the existing facilities and newer schools were proposed to be built between 1963 and 1967, which included the Eleanor Lemaire Junior High School, Lander County High School #2, and Mary S. Black Intermediate School.<sup>51</sup> The Battle Mountain Grammar School officially closed sometime in the late-1960s; however, its auditorium was temporarily used as a county library until the Lander County Civic Center was constructed in the early 1970s.

During this period, the populations between Battle Mountain and Austin had shifted significantly. Battle Mountain had five times as many people as Austin and a population of almost 2,000 people compared to Austin's population of 400. Due to these population discrepancies between the towns,

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 191.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., 194.

<sup>51</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 196.

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Battle Mountain residents considered it a hardship to travel the 88 miles south to the county seat of Austin, a two-hour drive. The moving of the county seat from Austin to Battle Mountain was a serious question, which had been growing since the late-1940s, and flared in 1953 when the Lander County district attorney, a Battle Mountain resident, and the deputy sheriff, an Austin resident became involved in a fist fight.<sup>52</sup> The incident spurred a political battle between the two communities. In 1960, Assemblyman Bill Swackhamer introduced a bill to move the Lander County seat, providing assurances that the relocation would not be immediate. However, it died in the Senate on a technical issue because it did not place a question on the ballot.<sup>53</sup> In May 1979, the question was added to the ballot and a county-wide vote that November turned in favor of moving the county seat to Battle Mountain.<sup>54</sup>

In physically moving the county seat, Lander County Judge Stanley Smart took initiative appointing Battle Mountain resident Lou Fuller along with Marian Fisher, John Marvel, and Louis Lemaire to move all the county files and furniture from Austin into the former Grammar School.<sup>55</sup> Fuller recalled Judge Smart had no funding, therefore, everything was done with volunteer labor in a day and a half to move the county seat to the old school, which was the only available county building in Battle Mountain. Physically converting the school into a courthouse was undertaken by donations from the community, according to Fuller. The interior changes in the building included converting the northeast corner classroom into the judge's chambers and building out a room for bailiff, Don Bohall. The wardrobe rooms in the grammar school became storage spaces for county files and assessor books. The large assembly room in the basement was divided into separate rooms that are still visible today for filing cabinets of files. On the old school grounds, Lou Fuller with Hank Dorian built a small concrete block building on the property's northwest corner in the 1980s as a Lion's Club meeting place that is visible today. However, there were members that preferred their current meeting location at the Nevada Hotel on East Front Street; therefore, the building was donated to the county for a preschool.<sup>56</sup> This concrete block building, located on the northwest corner exists, and is a non-contributing resource to the parcel.

In 1980, \$90,000 was allocated to recondition the courthouse that included cladding the exterior with a synthetic material called EIFS and painting the interior.<sup>57</sup> A hyphen and annex building were added to the northwest elevation for the county recorder, treasurer, and clerk's office in 1981, according to former County Clerk Ray Fagg.<sup>58</sup> Other changes completed in the 1980s included an elevator on the interior, and twelve-inch tall bronze letters added to the front pediment, plus modifying the trimming on the roofline.<sup>59</sup> The building has been vacant since the new Lander County Courthouse construction was completed in 2015.

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<sup>52</sup> Hall, *Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties*, 61; Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 199.

<sup>53</sup> Bennett, *All Roads Lead to Battle Mountain: A Small Town in the Heart of Nevada, 1869-1969*, 201.

<sup>54</sup> *Reno Gazette Journal*, "Lander County voters have spoken," May 16, 1979:31.

<sup>55</sup> Lou Fuller. "Personal communication with Corri Jimenez," May 15, 2018.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> Also known as an exterior insulation finish system (EIFS), it is comprised of a form of polystyrene and covered with a hard finish that visually resembles stucco.; *Battle Mountain Bugle*, "Courthouse Space Utilization Finalized," October 29, 1980.

<sup>58</sup> Ray Fagg, "Personal communication with Corri Jimenez," March 20, 2018.

<sup>59</sup> *Battle Mountain Bugle*, "Pointing the Way," January 8, 1985; Ray Fagg, "Personal communication with Corri Jimenez," March 20, 2018.

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### Conclusion

The Battle Mountain Grammar School designed by Frederic J. DeLongchamps in 1916 is eligible for listing to the Nevada State Register under Criterion A in the area of Education for its significance as a central educational institution in Battle Mountain from 1916 to 1962. The Battle Mountain Grammar School was innovative, modern, and an upgrade from the wooden, one-room schoolhouse built in 1873. During its operation, the property was a critical element of the community's social fabric, educating generations of Battle Mountain students for over 80 years. In 1962, a devastating flood damaged all the schools in Battle Mountain, most of which were slated for demolition. However, the unutilized school was repurposed as the Lander County Courthouse when the county seat moved from Austin, over 100 miles south, to Battle Mountain in 1979. Although there have been significant exterior alterations, it retains much of its original school plan and many of its design elements are encapsulated under modern materials. It retains sufficient integrity in *design* and *association* to be eligible for the Nevada State Register of Historic Places.

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Property Name: Battle Mountain Grammar School  
State Register Number: 190159

**8. DESCRIPTION** (select information that best describes exterior fabric, structural system, and roofing material)

**Architectural Style or Type:** Classical Revival

**Materials** Foundation: concrete  
Walls: concrete, wood  
Roof: flat asphalt, composition roof  
Windows: fixed; single-hung; double-hung  
Other: EIFS applied to exterior walls

**Narrative Description:**

Provide a narrative description of the property's present and historical physical appearance (include significant exterior and interior features).

Designed by Frederic J. DeLongchamps in 1915 as a two-story Classical Revival building, the Battle Mountain Grammar School was adapted into the Lander County Courthouse in 1979 to accommodate the transition of the Lander County Seat from Austin to Battle Mountain, NV<sup>60</sup>. Following the subsequent renovations in the 1980's, the courthouse still retains its classic Tuscan portico, original window patterns on the upper first floor, and a renaissance piano nobile as its main space. The original symmetry of the buildings' design is still visible in the fenestration of the façade and in the floor plan, although it has been subdivided to support the courthouses' associated services.

Overview and Setting

Known as the Lander County Courthouse, the building sits on a 1.83-acre lot surrounded by modest suburban housing. The lot is bound by Humboldt St. on the southeast, 3rd St. on the northeast, Mountain Dr. on the northwest, and 4th St. on the Southwest. The streets allow for two-way traffic with diagonal parking on the northwest side of Humboldt St. and the northeast side of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The courthouse sits on the east corner of the lot, directly on the northwest corner of Humboldt St and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The front façade of the courthouse is landscaped with gray gravel pebbles and a pine tree sitting on the original elevated concrete foundation. The lot also accommodates two non-contributing buildings and a large parking lot area.

The first non-contributing building was added to the northwest elevation of the courthouse as an annex attached via a hyphen in 1981 to house the county recorded, treasurer, and the clerk's office.<sup>61</sup> The second non-contributing structure is a concrete-block building located on the northwest corner of the lot. It was constructed in the 1980's as a Lion's Club meeting place and later donated to the County as a daycare center.<sup>62</sup> The north corner of the lot currently accommodates a small playground area on the footing of the County Juvenile Services Center demolished possibly in 2016. Additionally, ample parking space accommodates the center and the south side of the lot.

<sup>60</sup> *Reno Gazette Journal*, "Lander County voters have spoken," May 16, 1979:31.

<sup>61</sup> Ray Fagg, "Personal communication with Corri Jimenez," March 20, 2018.

<sup>62</sup> Lou Fuller, "Personal communication with Corri Jimenez," May 15, 2018.

### Current Exterior Condition

The Courthouses' rectangular massing accommodates an elevated first floor, originally designed as a Renaissance piano nobile, accessible from the front stairway on the southeast elevation of the building. The lower basement level, partially above grade, is accessible via an interior-landing stairway on the northwest elevation. Both the first floor and the basement level have been modified to accommodate the Lander County seat and its associated services. The entire building has exterior brick veneer walls extending to the roofline, supported by concrete walls and timber framing, built above a concrete perimeter wall foundation that separates the first floor from the basement level. The flat asphalt composition roof sits slightly below the brick parapet wall, with roof-mounted HVAC units added in the last 20 years.<sup>63</sup> The original exterior masonry finish has been concealed with a smooth, two-tone exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), which typically consists of layered acrylic co-polymers over extended polystyrene adhered to the masonry substrate.<sup>64</sup>

The front façade of the Courthouse facing Humboldt St incorporates the southeast elevation of the building. From the street level, a sloped paved walkway leads to a modest concrete, center railed stairway rising approx. 4'3" in elevation to form a podium for the courthouse's recessed main entry. The entryway is comprised of a classic Tuscan portico with four Doric columns and a simple masonry entablature and pediment extending away from the façade. The frieze displays the buildings signage, "LANDER COUNTY COURTHOUSE EST. 1979" in 12-inch bronze letters and the pediment displays a 32-inch bronze Nevada state seal.

The recessed main entry incorporates the original, ornate wood muntin in a diagonal and vertical pattern over a fixed window above the aluminum storefront doors. Four additional matching wood muntins cover the four fixed windows flanking the front entry, one on the southwest wall, one on the northeast wall, and two on the southeast wall, symmetrically placed between the Doric columns. Two original metal grilles sit at the base of the southwest and northeast walls, directly below the fixed windows. A fixed light has been added above the recessed entry to better illuminate the area.<sup>65</sup>

The fenestration is spaced symmetrically in 13 bays, six on either side of the front entry (center bay). The basement windows are fixed windows, with the exception of two single-hung windows on the east side of the basement. The single-hung windows on the upper first floor measure approx. 8" wider and 3'8" taller than the basement windows, however, they share a symmetrical centerline and spacing. A simple, continuous trim highlights the sill of the first floor windows while a top stringcourse at approx. the 21-foot elevation forms a continuous horizon with the architrave of the entablature, distinguishing the base of the parapet wall. A similar decorative trim was added to the perimeter of the roof in the mid-1980's to match the raking cornice of the pediment.<sup>66</sup> A stringcourse above the basement windows at approx. the 7-foot elevation creates a belt across the lower façade, distinguishing the first floor and the basement level.

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<sup>63</sup> Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc., TSK Architects, MSA Engineering Consultants. "Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical Systems Assessment Report" *Historic and Condition Assessment Report for the Battle Mountain Grammar School and Courthouse Building* (2016)

<sup>64</sup> EIFS Industry Members Association. "About EIFS." Accessed on October 30, 2018 at <http://www.eima.com/eifs>

<sup>65</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

<sup>66</sup> *Battle Mountain Bugle*, "Pointing the Way," January 8, 1985;

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Additionally, an intake louver sits directly center above the stringcourse of the first floor windows and a standard ventilation wall box sits below the outermost first floor window, symmetrically placed on either side of the façade. The nameplate with the roman numerals MCMXVI in recognition of the buildings' establishment is placed into a recessed area of the façade on the east edge of the building, directly above the basement stringcourse at approximately the seven-foot elevation. The entire façade has been finished with an EIFS and toned a brown/gray below the basement stringcourse and beige on the upper first floor level.

The northeast elevation of the courthouse faces west 3<sup>rd</sup> street. From the street level, two paved walkways lead to the added fire escape doors on the north and south side of the wall. The doors, originally basement windows, provide egress from the basement level and disrupt the original fenestration of the design. Only two of the original six basement windows are visible below the stringcourse, one fixed window to the proper right of the south fire escape door and one single-hung window in the center.<sup>67</sup>

Modern fixed lights have been placed on the proper right side of the fire escape doors and two modern ground-mounted HVAC units have been installed on the north side of the building, along the base of the wall. Additionally, a modern gas meter is installed just off-center, to the proper right side of the north door.

Above the basement stringcourse, a contemporary smooth wall relief has been added to the center of the wall, measuring approx. 21' x 16'1" x 12", framing the two first floor single-hung windows. A simple trim accents the sill of the windows while a brown/gray accented molding tops the wall relief. The relief breaks the stringcourse above the windows as well as the decorative roof trim. The entire wall is finished with a two-toned EIFS to visually distinguish the first floor and the basement level.

The southwest elevation of the courthouse faces the open parking lot area of the parcel. The basement level below the stringcourse at the 7-foot elevation has been altered with the addition of a small gabled vestibule on the south side of the building. An original basement window was removed and replaced with a fire escape door to provide egress from the basement level into the vestibule and out to the parking lot. A large ground-mounted HVAC unit has been installed to the proper right side of the vestibule, converting an original basement window into an access vent. Only four of the original six basement windows remain in place; one fixed and one single-hung window on the north, one fixed window in the center, and one fixed window to the proper left side of the vestibule.<sup>68</sup>

Additionally, on the far north side of the wall, a modern electrical metered switchboard and a utility company transformer have been installed with branch circuit feeders running into the building via a rectangular wall relief along the north side of the wall, measuring approx. 15'4" x 4' x 12". The wall relief has been finished in a beige EIFS to match the surface finish of the upper first floor elevation.

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<sup>67</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid*



With the addition of the wall relief housing the circuit feeders, the stringcourse above the first floor single-hung windows has been disturbed on the north side of the wall. The first floor windows remain in their original placement on the center of the wall with a simple trim accenting the sills. On the northwest elevation of the courthouse, the annex was attached via a hyphen from the original east basement door. The original west door has been replaced with an accessibility door. A fixed light has been added to the proper right side of the accessibility door and the two center double hung windows have been replaced with fixed storm windows. A rectangular relief accents the top of the accessibility door and the two central windows, disturbing the original basement stringcourse and replacing the original concrete pediment above the doors. The ten additional basement windows, original to DeLongchamps' design, have been subsequently removed and/or concealed following the adaptation of the building as the county courthouse in 1979.<sup>69</sup>

Above the basement stringcourse, the original first floor fenestration of the northwest elevation is undisturbed.<sup>70</sup> The single-hung windows are spaced in 14 bays, 7 on either side of the buildings' centerline. The outermost 5 windows on the east and west side of the building are symmetrical to the first floor windows on the façade. The four central windows, however, incorporate two slightly shorter windows, measuring approx. 3'8" x 6'10", symmetrically grouped with two standard sized windows to provide light to the central stairway, the northwest landing, and the original wardrobe closets. A stringcourse runs along the top of the first floor windows creating a visual separation between the ceiling and the parapet wall, while a simple trim accents the sills of the windows. Three intake louvers top the first floor window stringcourse, equally spaced in 1/3 increment across the wall. Two standard ventilation wall boxes flank the east and west sides, directly below the outermost windows at approx. the 8'10" elevation. Two modern vents have been added to the lower basement level, symmetrically on the east and west side of the basement wall at approx. the 6'4" elevation. A fixed light has been added to the far west side of the wall below the decorative roof trim. Finally, a sloped wall relief has been added to the east edge of the building, visually disrupting the original symmetry of the fenestration, measuring approx. 17'5" x 4'5" x 12". A drainpipe is exposed at the bottom of the relief, possibly added to update the drainage system of the building. As with the remainder of the building, a two-toned EIFS has been applied to the wall, concealing the original masonry finish.

The roof of the courthouse is comprised of a flat asphalt composition roof with framed wood crickets to direct drainage.<sup>71</sup> Only the top two feet of the parapet wall capped with a contemporary decorative trim is visible above the roofline, with the exception of the front elevation of the building where the pediment rises approx. 12 inches above the coping. Unlike the typical construction of parapet walls completely above the roofline, DeLongchamps designed the parapet wall for the Battle Mountain Grammar School between the 21'4" – 27'5" elevation, predominately concealed in the attic space.<sup>72</sup> From the exterior of the building, the parapet wall can be distinguished by the stringcourse above the first floor windows, extending past the roofline. Two inch by four inch crippled studs, braced at the roofline, support the brick veneer of the parapet wall

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<sup>69</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>71</sup> M Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc., TSK Architects, MSA Engineering Consultants. *Historic and Condition Assessment Report for the Battle Mountain Grammar School and Courthouse Building* (2016), 6-8.

<sup>72</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

in the attic space.<sup>73</sup> Additionally, the original brick chimney chase is exposed above the roofline on the north side of the roof. Four of the original five 18-inch air vents are still in place, as well as the roof scuttle and the flagpole located on the central southeast side of the roof, directly behind the pediment. Finally, roof mounted HVAC units have been added in the last 20 years to upgrade the cooling system of the building.<sup>74</sup>

#### Interior Condition – First Floor

Upon entering the courthouse on the southeast elevation, carpeted stairs lead up a plaster finished center stairway with low wood paneling to the first floor central corridor. The fixed window with an original decorative wood muntin on the southeast elevation illuminates the stairway and the first floor corridor from the south. DeLongchamps' originally designed the first floor with four large corner classrooms and adjoining wardrobe rooms, a teacher's room, and a science lab symmetrically placed on the northeast and southwest wing.<sup>75</sup> This original symmetry was disturbed by the subsequent renovations carried out in the 1980's. The central corridor is finished with a plaster ceiling and plaster walls with low wood paneling up to approx. the 4' elevation. The radiator on the southeast wall and the hose bibb on the northwest wall, in addition to the high wood picture molding, the wood baseboards, and the wood door trims of the four original classrooms, are original features of the grammar school. A few intrusive additions were introduced in the renovations, including an accessibility lift on the northwest wall; surface mounted and recessed wood cabinetry, and three aluminum storefront doors. Additionally, throughout the first floor, HVAC grilles, florescent lighting, surface mounted conduit, and carpeted flooring were installed.

To the east of the central corridor, the circulation is directed to the northeast wing of the first floor, comprised of the county courtroom, the judge's chambers, and the court clerk's office. The courtroom, originally the northeast corner classroom, is day lit by six single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim, cased in a cornice box on the northwest elevation of the room. A rectangular stepped platform has been added in front of the windows to accommodate a jury panel, while the judges' bench and the witness stand are placed in the southeast corner of the room. Two doors have been added to the southeast wall, one behind the judges' bench to provided access to the judge's chambers and another just east of the main entry to access a subdivided storage room. The adjoining wall on the southwest side of the room has been partially removed to accommodate the audience seating in the original wardrobe room. The northeast and southeast walls are finished with wood paneling covering approx. 2/3 of the plaster wall, while acoustic ceiling tiles wrap vertically down approx. 24" at the top of the walls.

The original teacher's lounge located south of the courtroom is subdivided into three spaces. A vertical stud partition wall was added to the middle of the space to divide the room into the judges' chambers to the east and to a subdivided storage room to the west. A diagonal stud partition wall with a framed doorway, creating two irregular quadrilateral spaces, divides the storage room. A stainless steel sink was added to the northwest wall and the rooms are finished in plaster with acoustic ceiling tiles. The storage room is accessed from the central corridor through the southwest

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<sup>73</sup> M Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc., TSK Architects, MSA Engineering Consultants. *Historic and Condition Assessment Report for the Battle Mountain Grammar School and Courthouse Building* (2016), 6-8.

<sup>74</sup> M Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc., TSK Architects, MSA Engineering Consultants. "Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical Systems Assessment Report" *Historic and Condition Assessment Report for the Battle Mountain Grammar School and Courthouse Building* (2016)

<sup>75</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

door of the room framed with the original wood trim, and from the added door on the southeast wall of the courtroom. The judges' chambers to the west of the storage room can be accessed from the private door added to the southeast wall of the courtroom, behind the judges' bench, and from an added door on the southeast wall of the judges chamber, leading out to the converted southeast classroom. The room is day lit by two single-hung wood sash windows on the northeast elevation with original wood trim. The wall is finished with wood paneling below the windows, while the northwest and southeast walls are finished with wood paneling covering approx. 2/3 of the plaster wall. The original high picture molding was retained above the wood cladding and the original baseboards are still visible along the perimeter of the room. The southwest wall is completely clad with wood paneling and the ceiling is finished with plaster.

The southeast classroom was converted to the court clerk's office accessible from the central corridor through a new aluminum storefront door framed with the original wood trim. A vertical stud partition wall with a framed doorway divides the room into the reception area to the west and office space to the east. The reception room is day lit by two single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim on the southeast elevation. A low built-in, L-shaped cabinetry with a swinging door was added to the northwest wall as a service desk. Above the cabinetry, the wall is finished in plaster with minimal wood cladding to the west of the front door. The southwest and southeast walls are finished with low wood paneling over plaster, original wood baseboards, and an original metal grille on the southwest wall. The partition wall is clad in wood paneling covering 2/3 of the plaster wall with a diamond-shaped window opening on the northern side of the wall. To the east of the partition wall, the room opens up to an office space with access to the judges' chambers through an added door on the northwest wall. The room is day lit by three single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the southeast elevation. The southeast and northeast walls are finished with plaster and wood baseboards, while the northwest wall is finished with wood paneling covering 2/3 of the plaster wall. Acoustic ceiling tiles wrap vertically down approx. 24" on the four original walls. Various ceiling tiles are in poor condition due to water ingress, especially in the northeast corner of the office space where there are noticeably failing and missing tiles in the ceiling.

The original adjoining wardrobe room to the west of the reception space was converted into a file storage room with an added horizontal stud partition wall with a framed doorway in the middle of the space. On the north side of the partition, wood cabinetry was added to the southwest and northeast walls flanking the original wood trim of the closet space. The south door accessing the storage room retains the original wood trim, while the original north door was removed and covered; half of the original wood trim of the north door was retained on the southwest wall of the reception space framing a bulling board. The southeast and southwest walls retain the original fixed windows with decorative wood muntins and wood trim. The room is finished with plaster walls and high wood picture molding, wood baseboards, and plaster ceiling.

To the west of the central corridor, the circulation is directed to the southwest wing of the first floor, comprised of the justice office, the data processing office, and the county assessor's office. The justice office, originally the southwest corner classroom, is accessible from the central corridor through a damaged aluminum storefront door framed with the original wood trim. A vertical stud partition wall with a framed doorway divides the room into a reception space to the east and office space to the west. The reception space is day lit by three single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the southeast elevation of the room. A low, built-in cabinetry with a three-foot swinging door was added perpendicular to the northeast wall as a

service desk. The northeast and southeast walls are plaster-finished while the northwest wall is clad with wood paneling covering 2/3 of the plaster wall. The original high picture molding and the wood baseboards were retained on the three original classroom walls. The central partition is completely clad with wood paneling in both rooms. To the west of the partition, the room opens up to a smaller office space day lit by two single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the southeast elevation. The southwest and northwest walls are finished with wood paneling covering 2/3 of the plaster walls and high picture molding. The southeast wall is finished with plaster, high picture molding, and wood baseboards. The ceiling is comprised of acoustic ceiling tiles in 1' x 4' panels on an existing plaster finish.<sup>76</sup>

The original adjoining wardrobe room to the east of the reception space was converted into a file storage room with an added horizontal stud partition wall with a frame doorway in the center of the space. Wood cabinetry was added to the SW and NE walls flanking the original trim of the closet space. The south door accessing the storage room retains the original wood trim, while the original north entryway was removed and covered; a portion of the original wood trim of the north door was retained on the southwest wall of the reception space. The northeast and southeast walls retain the original fixed windows with decorative wood muntins and interior wood trim. The room is finished with plaster walls and high wood picture molding, plaster ceiling, and wood baseboards.<sup>77</sup> At the west end of the central corridor just north of the justice office, the original science lab was converted into the data processing office. The room opens up to a unified space, day lit by two single hung wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the southwest elevation. An added door on the northwest wall connects the room to the county assessors' office. The room is finished with plaster walls, plaster ceiling, original high wood picture molding and wood baseboards.

The County Assessors' office, originally the northwest corner classroom, is accessible from the central corridor through a damaged aluminum store front door framed with the original wood trim. A vertical stud partition wall with a framed doorway divides the room into a reception space to the east and additional office space to the west. The reception space is day lit by three single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the northwest elevation. A low, rectangular built-in cabinetry was added perpendicular to the northeast wall as a service desk. The northwest, northeast, and southeast walls are finished with plaster and wood baseboards. The central partition is completely clad with wood paneling in both rooms. To the west of the partition, the office room is day lit by two single-hung wood sash windows with original wood trim on the northwest elevation. An added door on the southeast wall connects the room with the data processing office to the south. The southeast and southwest walls are finished with wood paneling covering 2/3 of the plaster walls, while the northwest wall is finished with plaster and wood baseboards. Acoustic ceiling tiles wrap vertically down approx. 24" on the four original walls.

The original adjoining wardrobe room to the east of the reception space was converted into a file storage room, day lit by one single-hung wood sash window with original wood trim on the

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<sup>76</sup> Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc., TSK Architects, MSA Engineering Consultants. "Appendix, room by room description," *Historic and Condition Assessment Report for the Battle Mountain Grammar School and Courthouse Building* (2016), 13-14, 18.

<sup>77</sup> Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc., TSK Architects, MSA Engineering Consultants. "Appendix, room by room description," *Historic and Condition Assessment Report for the Battle Mountain Grammar School and Courthouse Building* (2016), 13-14, 18.

northwest elevation. A horizontal stud partition wall was added in the middle of the space to accommodate the accessibility lift on the south half of the room. Subsequently, the original south door accessing the wardrobe and the closet room were removed to accommodate the lift. The room is finished with plaster walls and plaster ceiling with high wood picture molding, wood baseboards, and the original north wardrobe door trim.

Back in the central corridor, the stairs lead down the northwest elevation of the courthouse to the ground floor landing. A dropped ceiling was added above the stairway with HVAC ducts mounted to the soffit. The stairway is finished in white plaster walls with low wood paneling. The original high picture molding extends past the dropped ceiling along the northeast and southwest walls to the top two single-hung wood sash windows on the northwest elevation, illuminating the central stairway and the central corridor from the north.

#### Interior Condition – Basement Level

The ground floor landing is day lit by two wood sash windows with original wood trims. An original wood cased opening frames the northeast and southwest walls to direct circulation in either direction. Just past the northeast casing, the door to the annex is located on the northwest wall and the men's restroom door is located on the northeast wall. Similarly, just past the southwest casing, the handicap access door is located on the in northwest wall and the women's restroom door is located on the southwest wall. The restrooms are original to the building, though their marble finishes have been replaced with contemporary tile finishes and fixtures.<sup>78</sup> Additionally, the three original double hung wood sash windows in each restroom have been removed and sealed.

To the south of the landing on either side of the northwest central stairway, a five-step riser originally led down to the basement level.<sup>79</sup> However, given the interior renovations, the risers located west of the stairway were removed to accommodate the accessibility lift, placing it in direct path with the handicap door on the northwest wall. The converted hallway is finished with plaster walls with low wood paneling and a painted plaster ceiling. The rises to the east of the central stairway remain in place, leading the circulation down to the basement level. Similarly to the first floor, the basement level incorporates a central corridor that divides the floor into the northeast and southwest wings. The corridor is finished with plaster walls with low wood paneling, wood baseboards, acoustic ceiling tiles, carpeted floor, and the original wood door trim for the original assembly room on the west end of the corridor. The accessibility lift shaft has been added to the northwest wall, just west of the storage room under the central stairway. A few intrusive additions were introduced to the entire basement level including, HVAC ducts, fluorescent lighting, surface mounted conduit, and carpet flooring in some of the rooms. Originally, DeLongchamps' designed the basement level with a fifth classroom in the southeast corner, a heating/boiler room to the northeast, and a large assembly room for the school in the southwest wing.<sup>80</sup>

East of the central corridor, the circulation is directed to the northeast wing of the basement. An added stud partition wall interrupts the circulation at the east end of the corridor, creating an

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<sup>78</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid*

approx. 120° angle with the south wall and introducing a service window in the center of the partition with an added door just north of the window. Through the door, the circulation continues to the converted heating room to the north or to the converted classroom to the south. The heating room originally incorporated the fuel room into one large area with 4 windows illuminating the room from the northeast elevation.<sup>81</sup> During the subsequent renovations, the large heating room was subdivided into three spaces. A horizontal stud partition wall was added to the center of the room to divide the fuel room and the heating room into individual office spaces.

Additionally, a small, enclosed maintenance room was created along the northeast wall. Inside the maintenance room, an original window is located on the northeast wall. It retains an original wood trim and possibly the original wood sash. The top glazing has been removed and boarded with plywood. From the exterior façade, that window is concealed and coated over with an EIFS finish. The interior plaster finish below the window is heavily damaged due to water ingress, exposing efflorescence and delamination on the concrete wall. The room currently houses HVAC units to service the northeast wing of the basement. In the main office space, to the north of the maintenance room, the farthest window on the northeast wall was converted into a fire escape door with three added risers. Adjacent to the door, along the northwest wall, an original storage room can be accessed. The storage room now houses file cabinets and it's finished with plaster walls and carpet floors. The original two windows on the northwest wall have been removed and the openings have been sealed. Given the subdivision of the original heating room and the alterations to the fenestration, the rooms are illuminated with florescent lighting and finished with plaster walls, acoustic ceiling tiles, and carpet floors.

Back through the subdivided center corridor the circulation leads to the converted southeast classroom. The classroom has been subdivided into three office spaces, two square rooms in the south half of the classroom and one large rectangular space in the north half, with an added door on the northwest wall accessing the converted fuel room. The ceiling is dropped creating pockets in the windows and the original maple flooring has been concealed with contemporary office carpet. The larger square room on the southwest side of the classroom is day lit by three wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the southeast elevation. A door with two rises has been added to the southwest wall to access the space beneath the front central stairway. The southwest and southeast concrete walls are plaster-finished with built-in cabinetry. The adjacent square room on the southeast side of the classroom is day lit by two wood sash windows with original wood trim located on the southeast elevation. A small closet has been added to the northeast corner of the room and the southeast and northeast concrete walls are plaster-finished with a low built-in cabinetry on the southeast wall.

The larger rectangular room is day lit by one wood sash window and one converted fire escape door with built-in glazing. The fire escape door has four rises leading out to the northeast elevation of the courthouse. On the northwest wall, a door has been added to access the converted fuel room. The fuel room is day lit by one wood sash window on the northeast elevation and finished with plaster walls, a drop ceiling, and carpeted flooring. The original center partition between the converted fuel room and the converted classroom is completely cladded with wood paneling, detracting from the original plaster finish.

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<sup>81</sup> *Ibid*

The space under the front central stairway is accessible from the added door on the southwest wall of the classroom and from an added door on the southeast wall of the central corridor. The space was originally unexcavated, as noted in DeLongchamps' drawings.<sup>82</sup> It is unknown when the space was excavated and converted into a storage room. The core materials of the building are exposed in this area, including the concrete walls, the wood concrete form, the brick-veneer walls, the stud walls, the structural wood beams and posts, the floor joists, and the first floor risers. To the west of the central corridor, the circulation is directed to the southwest wing of the basement. Just past the cased entry, a stud partition wall was added to divide the original large assembly room into two spaces. The entryway for the north half of the space is diagonal to the partition, while the entryway for the south half of the space is stepped down approx. three-feet parallel to the partition to allow the door to swing open. This configuration creates an irregular quadrilateral space between the cased opening and the entryway to both rooms.

The larger room to the south was converted into an office space, day lit by six wood sash windows with original wood trim, five on the southeast elevation and one on the southwest elevation. An original window was converted into a fire escape door with three risers on the southwest elevation leading out to the vestibule. Another window to the north of the fire escape door was converted into an HVAC access vent. The room is finished with low wood paneling over plaster walls on the southwest, southeast, and northeast elevations, carpet floor, and acoustic ceiling tiles. The central partition is completely clad in wood paneling with HVAC ducts on the vertical side of the soffit. An added door on the west end of the partition wall leads the circulation into the north half of the assembly room. The non-functional radiators on the southwest wall are original features of the building and appear in good condition.

The north room half of the assembly room was additionally subdivided into an office/meeting space and possibly a small library. A vertical stud partition wall was placed just west of the support posts to create a small space with wall shelving units and access to the original storage room in the northwest corner of the building. The east half of the room is lit by fluorescent lighting and finished with plaster walls, acoustic ceiling tiles, and linoleum floors. There is damage to the linoleum floor near the front entry caused by water ingress into the subfloor particleboard. The west library space is day lit by three wood sash windows with original wood trim on the southwest elevation. The library is finished with plaster walls, acoustic ceiling tiles, and carpet floor. The original storage space in the northwest corner was possibly used as an extension of the library given the large shelving units along the four walls. This is the only room in the building with the original maple floor, though it is in poor condition. A large hole in the floor is visible in the northwest corner of the room, exposing sublevel piping and wiring. The two original basement windows on the northwest elevation are hidden behind the shelving units. The west window is partially exposed and appears to retain the original wood sash and wood trim. The east window is unassessed due to limited access. From the exterior elevation, these two windows have been concealed and coated over with an EIFS.

### Conclusion

The Battle Mountain Grammar School, also known as the Lander County Courthouse, stands as a testament to early 20<sup>th</sup> century rural development in northern Nevada. Its role in the local history of education has contributed to the buildings' historic significance. Although the subsequent

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<sup>82</sup> Frederic J. DeLongchamps. "Battle Mountain Grammar School, Architectural Drawings (NAA1-0025)." Located at the University of Nevada Reno Special Collections.

Property Name: Battle Mountain Grammar School  
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renovations of the 1980's have drastically altered Frederic J. DeLongchamps' original design of the school, the buildings' core materials comprised of supporting concrete walls and interior wood framing on a concrete foundation, remain in place since its original construction in 1916. Unfortunately, the application of an exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS) has compromised the brick veneer and concrete façade of the building, causing damage to the underlying substrate due to trapped moisture between the original masonry substrate and the layered acrylic co-polymers. Many of the original interior features of the Battle Mountain Grammar School are still intact or concealed by modern materials. Additionally, the stud wall partitions used to alter the circulation of the building are nondestructive and can be easily removed to revert the floor plan to its original historic design.



Property Name: Battle Mountain Grammar School  
State Register Number: 190159

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Property Name: Battle Mountain Grammar School  
State Register Number: 190159

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Property Name: Battle Mountain Grammar School  
State Register Number: 190159

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 1.83

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-24 BLK P BM

Boundary Justification: This is the official boundary of the property currently known as the Lander County Courthouse

Geo-Referenced Location (Use NAD 83 UTM's): \*\*add more points if necessary\*\*  
505253.848 m E                      4498977.634 m N

Source and method of UTM's: I used the World Coordinate Converter. I dropped a pin at the location of the former Battle Mountain Grammar School and relied upon the converter for the appropriate location coordinates.

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Heidi Swank, Mariana Ruiz, Corri Jimenez  
Organization: Nevada Preservation Foundation  
Address: 330 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 106  
City or Town: Las Vegas                      State: NV      Zip: 89106  
Telephone Number: 855-968-3973                      E-mail: Info@NevadaPreservation.org  
Date: 11/15/2018

## 12. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Include the following items with your submission:

**Photographs** (Provide one or more photographs of the building. At minimum, include one photograph of the front (façade) of the building. Please see guidance for this form for photograph specifications).

**Floor Plan and/or Site Map** (For individual buildings, provide a line drawing of the floor plan of the building. If there is more than one building, structure, or for sites, provide a scaled site map to show the relationship between nominated resources. See guidance for clarification).

**USGS Quadrangle Map** (provide a scale section of a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle or current city street map with the property marked).

**Photo Log** (complete for all photos taken)

Name of Property: Lander County Courthouse (formerly Battle Mountain Grammar School)

City or Vicinity: Battle Mountain

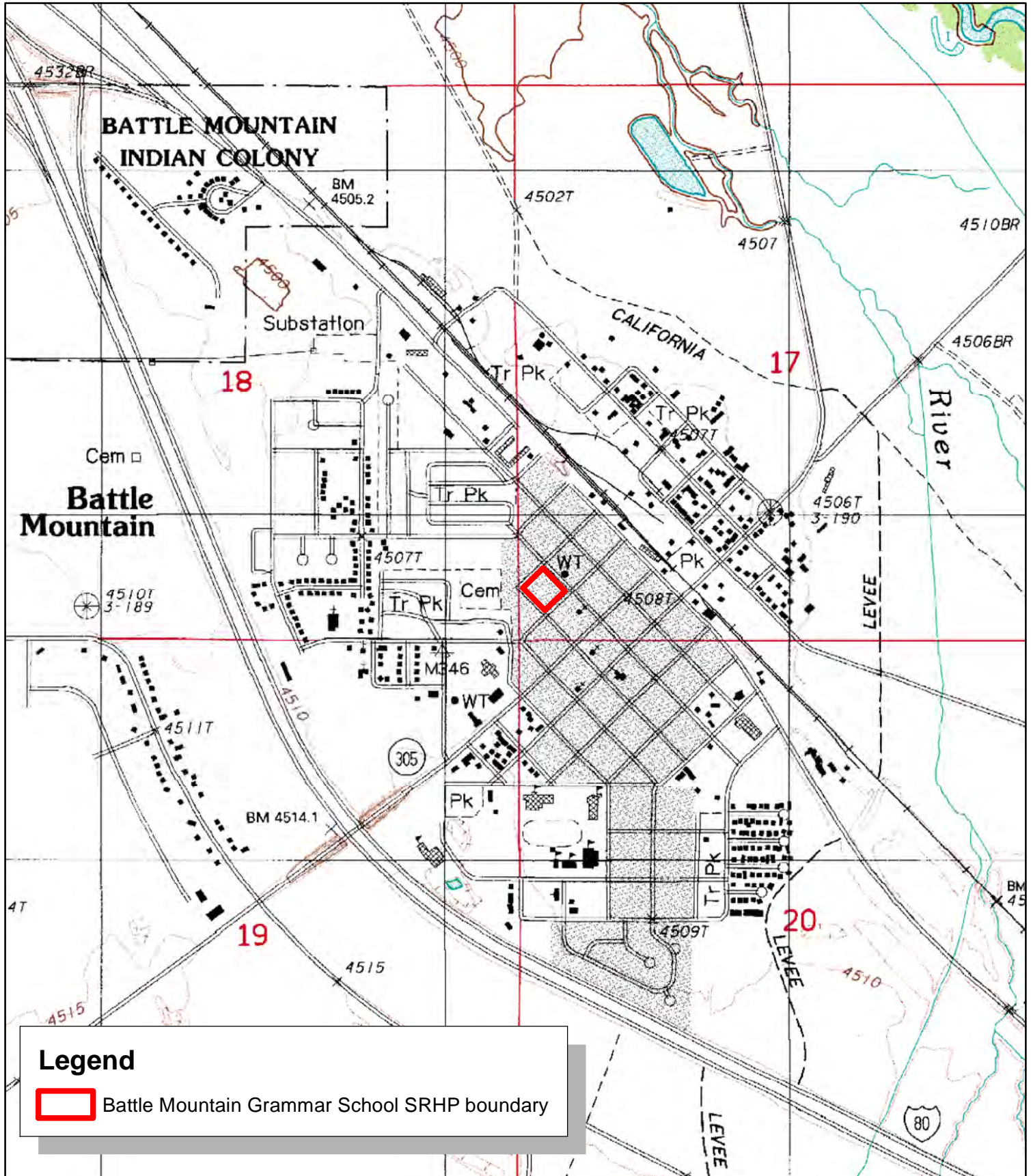
County: Lander County

Date photographed: March 2018


Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. View of front façade facing southeast. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
2. View of original transom over front entrance. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
3. View of side elevation facing northeast. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
4. View of rear elevation facing northwest and including the annex building (non-contributing). Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
5. View of rear elevation facing northwest, shows hyphen between main structure and annex as well as a less obstructed view of the rear elevation. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
6. View of southwest elevation. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
7. Original cornerstone on Southeast elevation. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
8. Remnant of fencing that originally bordered the schoolyard on Humboldt and Third Streets. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
9. Noncontributing outbuilding at northeast corner of lot that is today the Family Resource Center for Battle Mountain. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
10. First floor landing and hallway. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
11. View of main entrance from interior first floor. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
12. Stairway from first floor to ground floor bathrooms and basement. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
13. Original radiator located in the hallway on the first floor (also visible in photo 10). Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
14. Typical classroom and entry into cloakroom. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
15. Original flooring visible in basement storage room off library. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
16. Original radiators in the former library. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
17. Railroad tie structural element in basement underneath main entrance stairs. Source: Photographed by Heidi Swank. March 2018.
18. SW Elevation of School with Indian School building viewable in background, 1920s. Source: University of Nevada Special Collections Photographs, Reno, Nevada.
19. SW Elevation of School with landscaping and fencing visible in forefront, 1920s. Source: University of Nevada Special Collections Photographs, Reno, Nevada.
20. Battle Mountain Grammar School Class of 1911. Source: Photograph located in the Cookhouse Museum, Battle Mountain, Nevada.
21. Battle Mountain Grammar School, landscape in 1920. Source: Photograph located in the Cookhouse Museum, Battle Mountain, Nevada.
22. Battle Mountain Grammar School, 1929. Source: Battle Mountain Grammar School, eighth grade *Kiwaa* yearbook, located in the Cookhouse Museum, Battle Mountain, Nevada.

# Battle Mountain Grammar School SRHP USGS - Battle Mountain Quadrangle



## Legend

 Battle Mountain Grammar School SRHP boundary

Author: NVSHPO  
Date: Oct. 24, 2018  
Datum: NAD 83  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 North


0 250 500 1,000 Meters



# Battle Mountain Grammar School SRHP Aerial Site Map




## Legend

 Battle Mountain Grammar School SRHP boundary

## Status

 Contributing

 Non-contributing

Author: NVSHPO  
Date: Oct. 24, 2018  
Datum: NAD 83  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 North  
Source: USGS

0 15 30 60 Meters



# Lander County Manager

50 State Route 305  
Battle Mountain, NV 89820  
(775) 635-2885  
Fax- (775) 635-5332

January 11, 2019



Nevada Preservation Foundation  
330 West Washington Avenue  
STE. 106  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

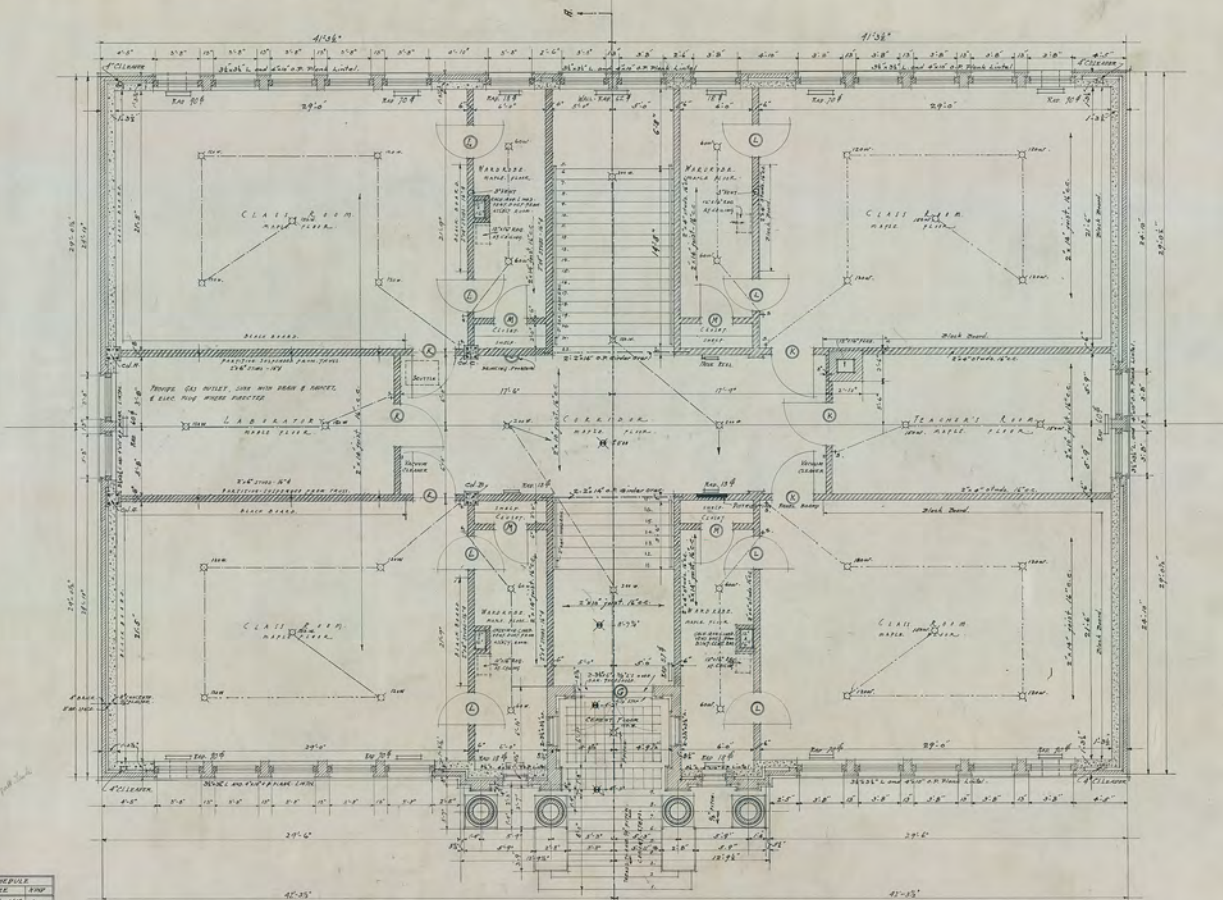
To Whom It May Concern,

As County Manager, I consent to include the architectural plans for the former Battle Mountain Grammer School in the state register nomination. If you have any questions, concerns, or need any further information, feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Westengard".

Keith Westengard  
County Manager



DOOR SCHEDULE
A 3'0" x 7'0" SWH
K 3'0" x 7'6" SWH
L 2'0" x 2'4" SWH
M 2'0" x 2'6" SWH

GENERAL NOTES.

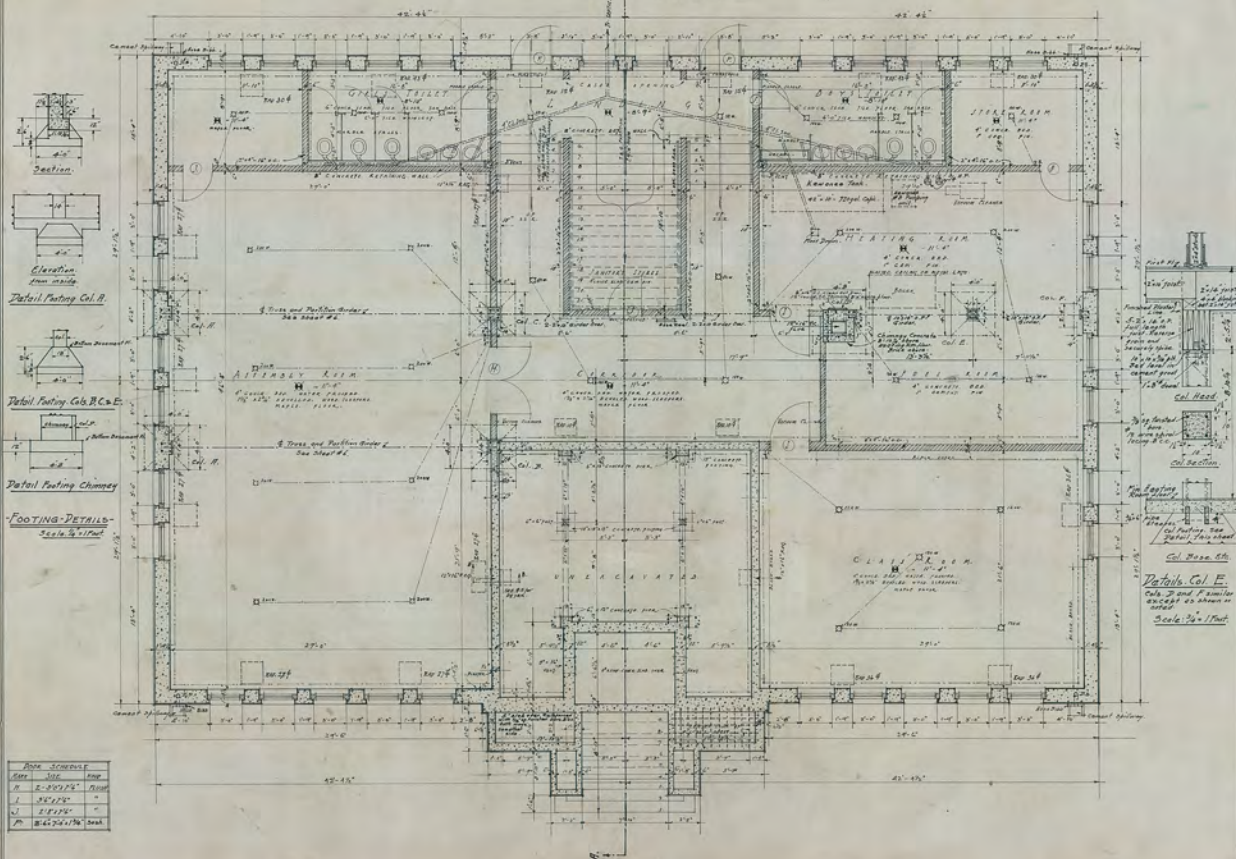
ALL WORK OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. TO BE CONFORMED TO THE DISTRICT MAP.

PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR.  
 PUBLIC SCHOOL AT DATTLE MOUNTAIN.  
 J. J. LONGCHAMPS ARCHITECT  
 BEND NEW HAMPSHIRE

SET NO	SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"	SHEET NO
1	DATE JULY 2-15 DRAWN BY R.M. TRACED BY R.M. EDITED BY R.M.	2



Note: For Details of Details Tied See DRAWING NO. 1



1st. NO. SCALE 3/4" = 1' SHEET NO. 1

DATE: 1917-12-10  
 DRAWN BY: J. B. L.  
 CHECKED BY: J. B. L.  
 DESIGNED BY: J. B. L.

1



LANDER COUNTY COURTHOUSE











LANDER COUNTY COURTHOUSE



MCMXVI















EXIT













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GRAMMAR SCHOOL BATTLE MOUNTAIN NEV.



Grammar School  
Battle Mountain, Nevada.

4141





